Closure of Unviable Coal Mines

622. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to close those coal mines which are not commercially and technically viable;

(b) if so, the number of such mines identified for closure, State-wise;

(c) whether the employees of the mines would be affected;

(d) if so, whether Government has got any schemes of providing alternative income sources; and

(e) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) The decision to close/ suspend operations in any mine is taken by the company concerned after taking into consideration various factors including exhaustion of coal reserves, safety considerations, technical feasibility, economic viability etc.

Forty nine mines have so far been identified for suspension of operations. Their numbers, State-wise are as follows:—

(Number of Mines)

Subsidiaries	State	
	West Bengal	Jharkhand
ECL	20	2
BCCL	—	15
CCL	—	12

No employees will be terminated/retrenched. Manpower will be re-deployed in other viable/potential mines. However, workers opting for VRS will be considered.

Coal Companies Outstanding Dues Payable by SEBs

†623. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount involved in the outstanding bills of coal compaines in Public Sector payable by State Electricity Boards;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.